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FLOOR DEBATE

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federal government determines that such is not necessary. When that time comes, the language contained in the bill determines that LB 185 is null and void. Supporting LB 185 will provide your constituents with the peace of mind that you have done everything in your power to protect them and have ensured the safety of all of our citizens to the best of your ability. I'd like to briefly tell you why I got involved in this bill in the first place. A group of over-the-road railroad employees in North Platte came to me and they were very, very concerned about the potentials of reducing the crew. It had nothing to do with size of their crew, it simply had to do with safety. And I established, in my mind, that these people were very dedicated to their work, and they were very concerned about the welfare, not only of themselves, but of the general public. And they explained to me a number of the circumstances under which they are faced with problems on a daily basis. So I did this, I established, number one, that the reason that they wanted me to introduce a bill like this was for the safety of themselves and the general public. And number two,...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: ...I asked specifically whether what we would be doing by this bill would interfere with anything that the railroads are currently doing, and the answer was, unequivocally, no. And I think this is a safeguard that we need for our public, and I think that if we...if we go forward and require that this be maintained, we're not asking them to do anything different, I said, are we asking the railroad to do something different than what they're doing now? And the answer is, no. So I would submit this bill to you, and there are committee amendments, and you will hear further. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Chair of the Business and Labor Committee, Senator Connealy, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The committee amendment would replace the green copy of LB 185. And Senator Pederson's amendment after it replaces the committee amendment. Before I turn it over to that amendment, I'd like to mention